

## ***Speakers' Biographies***

### **Reggie Knox, Executive Director**

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Reggie Knox has been working with California farmers for 26 years and with CA FarmLink for nine years. He managed FarmLink's technical assistance programs in the Central Coast before becoming executive director in 2011. He has facilitated the growth of FarmLink's loan fund and the organization's emergence in 2013 as a certified Community Development Financial Institution. At FarmLink and as a consultant, Knox has developed expertise in farm leases, land transactions, financing and farm transitions. He has worked as an organizer, consultant and non-profit manager supporting small and medium scale farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture throughout California. As Program Manager at the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Knox ran the Lighthouse Farm Network, implementing hundreds of workshops for family farmers addressing farmland protection, resource conservation and economic options for small farmers. He has long-standing relationships with Central Coast farm and conservation groups including the Farm Bureau and more than 10 years of experience as an organic farm inspector visiting hundreds of farms throughout the Central Coast and Central Valley. Knox helped to manage an eleven-acre organic farm for several years after graduating from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

### **Ariana Reguzzoni**

#### **North Coast Regional Coordinator**

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Ariana was born and raised in Oakland, CA. She recently co-founded Chica Bloom Farm, an organic cut-flower operation in Sonoma County. Before this, Ariana worked on several farms in Sonoma and Marin County, learning as much as she could about small scale flower and vegetable production. She also has extensive experience as a professional journalist and has worked as a producer for PBS and independent documentaries. She currently freelances as a food and agriculture journalist. Ariana has a master's degree in journalism from UC Berkeley and is also a graduate of the Ecological Horticulture Program and Community Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz. She's very excited to help other new farmers, like herself, navigate the world of farm business and development and help support the next generation of farmers in California!

## **Olivia Boyce-Abel, Facilitator/Mediator/Consultant**

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Family  
Lands  
Consulting

Olivia Boyce-Abel founded Family Lands Consulting (FLC) in 1994 to assist families in preserving family accord, as well as their land. Personal experience inspired Olivia to establish FLC; she now works with individuals and families nationally and internationally on issues of transference and preservation of family homes and lands. As a consultant to owners of family lands, she facilitates decisions, mediates disputes, and assists in the implementation of plans.

Ms. Boyce-Abel comes to family lands mediation work through extensive personal experience both as a beneficiary to her grandmother's trust and as a trustee of her mother's foundation. Professionally, her background spans over 25 years of work in land preservation, litigation and mediation. She has in-depth experience in dealing with property stewardship, multiparty ownership and dispute resolution, and excels in working with family dynamics to foster creative solutions.

Her sensitivity to family dynamics allows Olivia to work creatively with all of the parties involved to achieve consensus through clarifying and resolving conflict. Her personal experience inspired her to establish FLC where she continues to facilitate and mediate family lands issues nationally and internationally.

Under the guidance of Olivia Boyce-Abel, Family Lands Consulting addresses and resolves complex issues surrounding land ownership, inheritances, and individual and family relationships, in an atmosphere of intelligence, dignity and respect.

Professional expertise and personal sensitivity allows Olivia to work creatively and effectively with all involved parties to achieve consensus through clarifying issues and resolving conflict.

In addition to her personal and professional experiences in family land preservation, Olivia Boyce-Abel has completed over 200 certified hours post-graduate training in mediation, conflict resolution, facilitation, and negotiation of effective environmental agreements. She earned credentials as a mediator through CONCUR, CDR Associates, and the University of California. She has published, presented workshops, and lectured nationwide on family lands preservation, including a seminar for Yale's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. Olivia Boyce-Abel has served as a resource for numerous publications, including the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She holds membership in the National Institute for Dispute Resolution, the Association of Conflict Resolution, the Family Firm Institute, and the Family Office Exchange. She is also active in a variety of community conflict resolution programs.

## Rod Carter, AFM

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Rod Carter and wife, Andrea, reside in Chico, California where Rod is employed by Golden State Farm Credit (formerly NCFC Business Consulting, a division of Northern California Farm Credit). Rod was hired in January 1999 to form the Division, which provides a broad array of business consulting services to farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses. A native of eastern Colorado, Rod earned two degrees at Colorado State University: a Bachelor's degree in agriculture education and a Master's degree in agricultural business. He draws on more than 30 years' experience in primary and adult education, farm and ranch management, organizational development and operating his own businesses.

That experience includes positions in several agricultural companies including two owned and operated by Rod. Prior to working in California, his career has included assignments in Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Texas, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia.

While most of Rod's consulting assignments have been within the United States, he has also worked with a division of Bank of Mexico to train agricultural advisors as they privatized their institutions. Rod has been a member of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers for over twenty five years and earned their Accredited Farm Manager (AFM) designation in 1984. Rod is also an active member of the American Society of Agricultural Consultants. He served as Executive Director of the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Council, a private, nonprofit organization chartered to enlarge the pool of trained leaders available to serve agriculture. He is a lifetime member and past President of the Denver Agricultural and Livestock Club and served as a director of the Colorado FFA Foundation for which he was awarded an Honorary State Farmer Degree.

Rod now focuses on agricultural business consulting assignments in northern and central California where he has helped hundreds of clients advance their business and personal objectives. His work has also included facilitating board development, strategic and business planning program for Farm Credit Associations in six states.

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MEET THEIR GOALS  
AND INCREASE PROFITABILITY**

## Mac, Kate & Grace Magruder

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Mac Magruder is the fourth generation to shape his family's property in Potter Valley. His grandparents raised sheep and his father farmed pears and cattle. Mac grew up helping on the ranch, went away to college and graduate school, and returned to Potter Valley in 1976 to take over management of the ranch.

Mac chose to focus exclusively on a cow/calf operation, something for which he felt the land was especially suited. Mac has become, in effect, a grass farmer, developing fertile pastures rich with naturally growing legumes and grasses perfectly suited to grow healthy Angus cattle. The ranch consists of both irrigated pastures and open hill ground that provides year-round grazing for the cattle in a holistic rotational system. The cattle, all born on the ranch, are fattened on the ranch, processed locally, and then sold to restaurants, independent stores, and individuals, contributing to a local food system and local economy. The family also raises pastured pigs (a cross between wild boar and either Berkshires or Tamworth) as well as grass-fed lamb.

Mac and Kate (his wife whom he wed in 1982) were delegates to the International Slow Food Conference in Turin, Italy in 2006, joining 6500 other food producers from around the world to share ideas and best practices. Kate and Mac's oldest daughter Grace returned to the ranch in 2009 after graduate school; now she, along with her fiancé, Kyle Farmer, help run the family business.

Mac's sister, Helen, currently directs an outdoor education program for the local school district.

## **Stephen Johnson, Attorney**

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**Law Office of  
Mannon, King  
and Johnson**

### **College**

Mr. Johnson is a 1996 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley. In 1999, he received his law degree from Santa Clara University.

### **Bar Admissions**

Mr. Johnson was admitted to practice before all courts of the State of California and the United States District Court for the Northern District of California in 1999.

### **Law Practice and Experience**

Mr. Johnson's practice consists of both transactional work and litigation, with emphasis on estate planning, real property, land use, business transactions and water rights.

Mr. Johnson maintains a strong litigation and transaction practice while also retaining an active involvement in the operation of his family's pear and grape farming business. Mr. Johnson is a fifth-generation farmer and resident of Mendocino County.

## **Michael M. Delbar, Chief Operating Officer**

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CALIFORNIA  
**RANGELAND**  
*Trust*

As the California Rangeland Trust's Chief Operating Officer, Michael Delbar oversees day-to-day operations and provides landowner outreach and legislative support to the organization. Most recently, Delbar was elected and served three consecutive terms as the First District Supervisor for the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and was Second Vice President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Delbar served on the state and national agriculture policy advisory boards for California State Associations of Counties and the National Association of Counties. He is a former Lake County Farm Bureau executive director and part of a six generation Mendocino County ranching family, raising beef cattle, timber and hay where they recently celebrated 150 years of family ownership of the original homestead land. Additionally, Michael currently serves on the board of directors for the Potter Valley Rodeo Association, was a former director of Mendocino County Farm Bureau and was state chair of California Young Farmers and Ranchers. Michael is a member of the California Ag Leadership Program, Class XXIV.